

TRINITY CHURCH--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP October 17, 1971

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 19
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
 O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst give thy
 life for us that we might receive pardon
 and peace, mercifully cleanse us from all
 sin, and evermore keep us in thy favor and
 love, who livest and reignest with the Father
 and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world
 without end. Amen.
 *The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture--- Ephesians 4:22-32
 *The Gloria Patri
 Anthem (Trinity)
 Pastoral Prayer
 Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 239
 The Sermon---"Putting On The New Man"
 The Sermon Prayer
 *The Hymn of Response 243
 *The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harvest Home will be Oct. 24th in both churches.
 No home canned goods will be accepted this
 year.

Youth Sunday will be observed Oct. 31st. The
 youth will lead us in worship.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are a few Penna. trays available for
 \$1.00. See Clair Steele.

Neighbors in Need collection: \$66.00
 Pakistan Relief 16.00

Those in the hospital:
 Mrs. P. Haes, Harrisburg Hosp. room 101, C. Bldg.
 John McCoy, Harrisburg Hosp. room 1026
 Mrs. L. Schenbach, Polyclinic Hosp. room 149
 Mrs. R. Stoner, Holy Spirit Hospital

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neighbors in Need collection: \$31.15
 Jr. Sunday School Dept. 6.14
 Pakistan Relief 22.00

Today is the last Sunday for the clothing
 drive for Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Miss.
 An offering plate is on the back table for
 money needed for postage and handling of these
 clothes.

Mrs. Vern Magee is in room 436 at Hershey
 Medical Center.

... the day he said to him, "I am the light of the world." ... his people, and the light of his life.

Call to Confession: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all he has made: Come, let us seek his compassion and come to him in confession.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christi, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

A surerance of pardon: Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal life through grace, comfort our hearts and establish them in every good word and deed, and forgive us our sins. Amen.

Christ's Communion:

Nov. 7, or a dedication recital.

*ORIGIN FOUND IN
BOOK OF COMMONS*

Nov. 21, advent wreath fellowship.

Nov. 7th & 14th stewardship emphasis. New Year money

Oct. 27th rick or treat for children. Junior hi to senior hi youth will collect. More later

at emphasis on giving.

Nov. 7th and Nov. 14th stewardship emphasis.

Nov 14th advent wreath fellowship.

indeed baby boy.

V/S 178125

Putting on The New Man

EPH

Text: Ephesians 4; 22-32.

Every year at the beginning of the new year many people take a fresh look at their lives and make new resolutions to change a portion or in some cases their entire lives. Too often these resolutions are kept for only a brief time and the individual slips back into the same old groove. Perhaps this is what Paul was writing to the Church at Ephesus about. He writes that they should, "put aside your old self, and put on the new self." We parallel this in our language by saying, "To turn over a new leaf." But whichever phrase we use there is considerable merit in the suggestion. We would all probably gain much in the spiritual side of our lives if we took stock of ourselves periodically throughout the year. This is probably best done at the beginning of the year and perhaps around this time, the fall. We have passed for the most part the hectic days of the summer months, and once again the longer evenings are with us. We have more time for being indoors and this lends itself to reading or relaxing. It should also lend itself to contemplation. We need to analyse ourselves once in a while to see how far or how close we are to the Christian life. ^{WE MUST BE} If ~~we are~~ dishonest with ourselves ~~and we must be~~, because after all who are we fooling if we are dishonest with ourselves? We can probably come up with a very formidable looking list in most cases. ~~We have been taught at the Day School to read a portion of Scripture and then to meditate upon it and ask ourselves, "What does this particular portion say to me?" To be quite frank this portion we heard read this morning really made me stop and think. I found that it said and is saying many things to me.~~

Most of us because of our human frailty, can read a portion of scripture and immediately we can see that this part fits Mr. So and So to a tee. And it certainly is too bad that Mrs. Such and Such isn't here this morning to have heard this scripture because this one was her. Our failing is that we can feel that a section of the Bible is reserved for those other people and a section is reserved for us. Our section reads, "Well done good and faithful servant." Isn't this about it? One of the most memorable sermons I ever heard was along these same lines. The minister said that on practically any given Sunday, he hurls a pitchfork toward

the first row and they in turn hurl it to their right or left at someone they feel he is really talking to, and from there it is passed over the shoulder to the row behind and so on until it is hurled over the last row and no one takes it to imply to him personally.

Paul was hurling pitchforks at these people, and I wondered as I pondered these verses whether they hurled them behind them or took them to heart. He said to stop telling lies, he said to control anger, don't hold grudges, don't do any sort of spitefulness. These are all very pertinent things. Our churches today are made up of the same type of men and women who were in the church at Ephesus. We still do the things that are improper in the church of Jesus Christ. It is surprising how many things are done and have been done in the name of religion. One of the Churches we merged with, the Congregational Church came to this country to get away from religious persecution in England. Yet what did they do in New England? They accused people of being witches and burned them at the stake. This was not wrong to them but being persecuted by the King of England was. This is an extreme example to be sure. But this proves the point I am trying to make. I would venture to say that in almost every congregation there are things that have been done that ~~was~~ ^{WERE} not in the best interests of Christianity. But does this mean we should remind people of them and keep their errors ever before their eyes? Paul gives an answer at the very end of this reading. He states, "Be friends with one another, and kind, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ." This is the key to being a real Christian. To be able to forgive. Yet how many of us are willing to forgive? You have heard it many times and so have I. How someone will have been wronged by another and so he states, "I'll never forgive him for what he did to me." This is the strictly human outlook. The Christian outlook would be to forgive him and forget about it. But perhaps it feeds our egos a little bit to be able to hash up the story with all its details months and years after it has happened. William Barclay in his interpretation of Matthew points ^{IN THE NEW TESTAMENT} out that there are five different words used for the word we know as sin. We won't go into all of them but one that is particularly fitting here is the word ^{GREEK} parabasis which literally means stepping across. Sin then would be the stepping across the line which is drawn between right and wrong. Here then we must ask our-

selves some questions. Do we always stay on the right side of the line that divides honesty and dishonesty? Is there never any thing such as a petty dishonesty in our lives? Do we always stay on the right side of the line that divides truth and prevarication or lying? Do we never by word or by silence twist or evade or distort the truth? Do we always stay on the right side of the line that divides kindness ^{NESS AND} ~~and~~ courtesy from selfishness and discourtesy? Is there never an unkind word or action in our lives? If we really answer as we should there is not one of us who can claim to be free of all of these sins. Yet we come to God and we pray the Lord's Prayer and ask Him to forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Thus when we hold grudges against someone or say that we will not forgive someone for something done such a long time ago, we are in fact asking God to not forgive us. In other words how can we pray for forgiveness if we are unwilling to forgive?

Robert Louis Stevenson lived in the South sea islands for a time. Every day he conducted family worship for the entire household in the morning. The worship always ended with the Lord's Prayer. One morning in the middle of the prayer he rose from his knees and left the room. Since his health was always rather poor, his wife thought that perhaps he was ill and she followed him. Is there anything wrong she asked? "Only this," he said, "I am not fit to pray the Lord's Prayer today." None of us are fit to pray this prayer many times in our lives. Let us remember this the next time we pray it and if there is someone we have not forgiven or refuse to forgive, let us bear in mind that we are asking God to not forgive us when we pray this prayer.

Then we must learn to understand people. Too often we meet someone and we make a snap judgement about that person which colors our entire thinking about him the remainder of the time we know him. Have you ever done this? I think most of us have. I can remember very clearly several times that I did this only to have to change my entire opinion of an individual. So I have learned the hard way to accept people as they are and to try not to judge their actions and motives. One case in particular involved an elderly man who was a member of my home church. Very few people knew this man by name and those who did all said he was an old sour puss. And from outward appearances he was. He never smiled, he always wore a scowl. He never bothered to talk to anyone. But he minded his own business.

For some unknown reason I decided that I would try to speak to this man. Every Sunday when I saw him I made a point of greeting him with a smile and a handshake. It didn't take too long before it seemed as though he searched for me and shook hands and smiled in return. It turned out that he was not a sour puss, but was just a rather backward person who minded his own business. We never know what is bothering someone else. Perhaps the person we label as unfriendly, is this way because he or she is ill. Perhaps they are backward. Perhaps they have many problems at home. There are numerous reasons why someone happens to act in a certain way. Forgiveness for us can many times be much easier if we first try to understand someone before we begin to condemn them.

We have all heard the expression to forgive and forget. Well this is what we must do. As long as we remember and brood over an injury to our wife or an injury to ourselves, there isn't much hope that we can forgive. We have all probably made the remark or one similar, that we can never forgive so and so for what they have done. Or we say that we can forgive but we can't forget. By doing this we imprint the hurt or the injury indelibly upon our minds and make it impossible to do either. A Scottish writer and critic by the name of Andrew Lang, once wrote a very nice review of a book written by a young writer. This man repaid this kind review with a bitter insolent, insulting attack upon Mr. Lang. About three years later Mr. Lang was staying with Robert Bridges a poet. Bridges saw Lang reading a certain book and he was amazed. He remarked, "Why that is another book by that ungrateful young cub who behaved so shamefully to you." To his utter amazement Andrew Lang's mind was a complete blank of the entire affair. He had completely forgotten the insulting and bitter attack of this young writer. This is what complete forgiveness can do. If we strive to have the spirit of Christ within us we can also do this. This is what we must do. Instead of remembering our wounds caused by other people, we should pray to God for the person who has hurt us. It is truly amazing how this formula works. If I may give another personal example here maybe I can prove this point. At one time I was the superintendent of our Church School. One of the members who was neither a teacher or officer always seemed bent on embarrassing me whenever there was a general meeting attended by the entire Sunday School. Now this man was no ignoramus. He was an

educated man. A dentist by profession. After one of these encounters I was rather angry and I happened to remark to the minister that I would like to poke Dr. so and so in the nose. You see I was rather young and impetuous. The minister replied that what I should do was pray ^{for} this man. I grumbled that I would and didn't think too much of the idea. The next general meeting we had, the same thing happened. When this man had launched into his embarrassing routine of asking questions which were unsoivable or which I couldn't answer. While he was thus occupied I silently prayed for him. It didn't stop his attack however, ^{but} I got into the habit of praying for him whenever I became irked by a thought of him. And amazingly at the next meeting there was no further abuse. I took the occasion to ask him if he had any comments to make and received a negative reply. To this day that man has never said anything out of the way to me. All it takes is that old familiar word, Love. We cannot give this love unless we have the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts. We cannot have this love in our hearts unless Jesus Christ is there. And He cannot come into our hearts unless we invite Him. It's as simple as that. To be forgiven we must forgive. Let us each one ask Jesus Christ to come and dwell in our hearts today. Maybe then we can change our whole thinking and our whole outlook about people. It is certainly worth a try, and today is as good a time to start as any. Let us pray

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN OR WOMAN.